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➤BOOK ❖ NOTICES.❖

MOAB'S PATRIARCHAL STONE.*

The inscriptions engraven on the rocks, stamped on clay tablets and written on ancient monuments, have corroborated many passages of the Scriptures, cleared up many doubtful expressions, and in many ways have advanced the better understanding of the Bible. No single inscription has done more to these ends than that found recorded upon the Moabite Stone, giving account of Mesha, King of Moab, and his relations with Israel.

This monograph of Mr. King's is a full account of the discovery of this stone, and the unfortunate complications which resulted in its destruction by the Arabs. Full credit is given to Dr. Klein for the discovery, and while entirely impartial in statement, it is clearly shown how M. Ganneau's misdirected zeal resulted in the shattering of this monument into fragments.

An exposition taking up each word of the inscription is given, the historical points where it is in agreement with the Bible being indicated. The stone shows us that 900 years before Christ there were in use 22 alphabetic characters, thus refuting an objection, based on the idea that only 16 characters were known before 776 B. C., brought against the antiquity of certain parts of the Bible. These statements, the geographical references, and all the teachings of this relic of the past, confirm the Sacred History. One wishing to study the Moabite Stone will find this book helpful.

EGYPT, PALESTINE AND PHENICIA.†

It would seem as if the ground indicated by the above title had been so thoroughly visited and so much had been written upon it, that the field was well nigh exhausted. However, we have here not a new book but a translation of the eighth edition of a French work first published in 1859. The fact that the book has so long held the attention of the public, and its translation into German, Swedish, Dutch, and Italian, shows that there is much of interest and value in it; and upon perusal so we find.

The author, M. Bovet, is Professor of Hebrew in the University at Neuchatel, and he gives an account of a journey undertaken in the year 1858. The narrative is vivacious and sprightly, and interest is kept up from first to last. M. Bovet had the great advantage of being thoroughly at home in the Old Testament Scriptures, and he was awake to everything which might explain or render vivid the sacred narratives; there never appears any studied attempt to find these illustrations, but all available material is used in a most natural and effective manner. There is a freshness about the book that is charming, for the larger part consists of letters written from day to day during his journey, and the very aroma of the country is preserved, and its life acted out before the reader as on a stage. Disputed points

* MOAB'S PATRIARCHAL STONE: Being an account of the Moabite Stone, its story and teaching. By Rev. Jas. King. London: *Bickers & Son*, 1878.

† EGYPT, PALESTINE AND PHENICIA. A visit to sacred Lands. By Felix Bovet. Translated by W. H. Lyttleton. New York: *E. P. Dutton & Co.*, 1883. 5½x8, pp. 416. Price \$2.00.